



Quick Facts: Use of Chlorine in Organic Handling

Follow Label

Approved chlorine materials may be used in direct contact with organic products according to label directions.

Allowed chlorine materials in organic production are calcium hypochlorite, chlorine dioxide, sodium hypochlorite, and hypochlorous acid from electrolyzed water.

Rinse Product

Chlorine use must be immediately followed by a rinse sufficient to reduce chlorine levels on product to potable water levels:

- ♦ 4 ppm for chlorine
- ♦ 0.8 ppm for chlorine dioxide

Monitor & Record

Monitor and record chlorine levels to verify:

- ♦ Chlorine material was used according to label directions
- ♦ Rinse step sufficiently reduced chlorine levels on the organic product

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

National Organic Program Guidance: The Use of Chlorine in Organic Production and Handling

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/5026.pdf>

Use of Chlorine in Organic Handling

1. Chlorine materials must be used according to label directions. In addition, all input materials used in organic handling and all practices related to sanitizing organic products must be documented in your Organic System Plan (OSP). Your inputs and practices must be approved by WSDA prior to use.
2. A product rinse must be performed using a spray bar, flume, or other application of water*. Other allowed inputs may be included in the rinse water. The final rinse water must be tested after contact with the organic product, but before the rinse combines with other water sources. Rinse practices must be sufficient to reduce chlorine levels to potable water levels (4 ppm chlorine / 0.8 ppm chlorine dioxide).
3. A recordkeeping system must be in place to document chlorine use and the results of chlorine level monitoring or testing. Your records must be available at each announced organic inspection.

**Approved acidified sodium chlorite products (acidified with citric acid only) may be used without a rinse. When breaking eggs for processing, no rinse is required according to FSIS requirements.*

Equipment: Allowed chlorine materials may be used to sanitize food contact surfaces up to maximum-labeled rates. No rinse is required, unless mandated by label.



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